March
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Page 12

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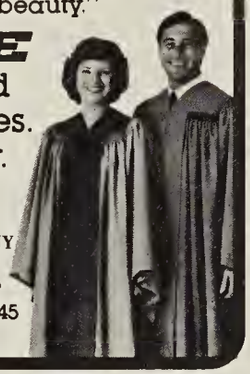

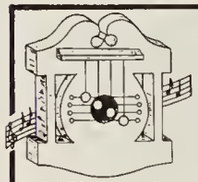

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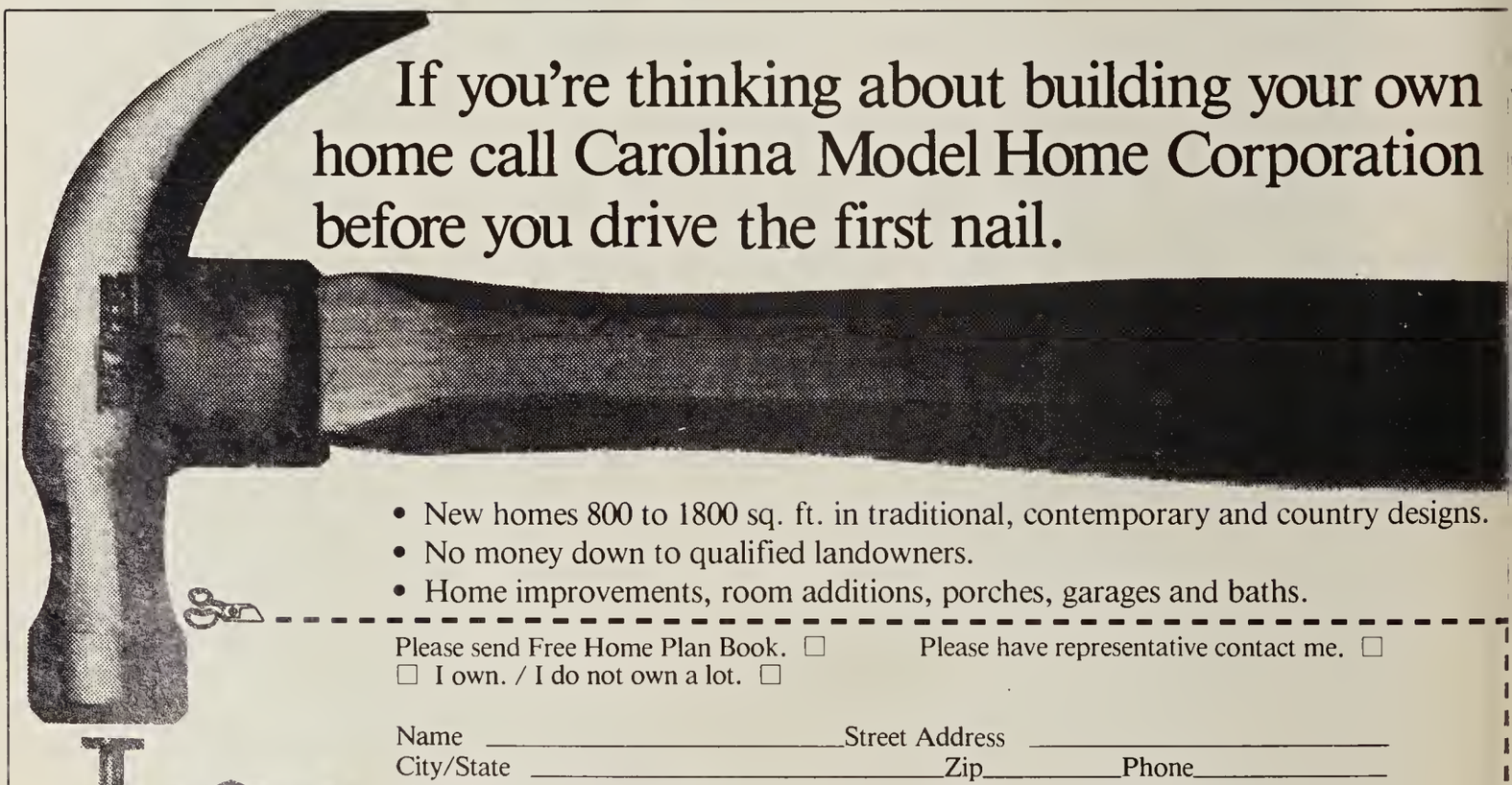

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Co-ops Could Serve As A Channel For Rural Development Assistance

A partnership that has worked effectively for extending power lines across America's countryside may soon be harnessed to help rebuild deteriorating rural communities.

The partnership links the nation's rural electric cooperatives and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), which provides financing for the co-op program through the Rural Electrification Administration (REA).

See related column, page 22.

Using that link as a mechanism for stimulating the economy in rural areas has been suggested by members of Congress.

Meanwhile, a USDA study committee has called on the federal agency to launch a new rural economic development initiative, but the 30-member panel is still studying how the electric cooperatives might help with this effort.

USDA officials are currently reviewing the two proposals.

The proposed program could involve establishing a staff of economic development specialists within USDA to provide expertise and guidance for job creation projects.

The electric co-ops, which have traditionally played a major role in economic development efforts, could serve as a natural channel for directing this USDA aid into rural areas.

"There's no existing group that is more involved in rural America than the rural electric program," said Gary Whitener, a member of the USDA committee and manager of Rutherford Electric Membership Corporation, Forest City.

The committee, the National Advisory Council on Rural Development, is a group of farmers, rural business leaders and state and local officials. It was appointed last spring by Agriculture Secretary Richard Lyng to advise him on rural development issues.

Now, the council has recommended that USDA put a higher priority on the non-agricultural side of rural development "because of the importance of non-farm sources of income to a growing number of rural Americans."

The panel has adopted a list of 10 recommendations that would establish the agency as a strong advocate for economic development in rural areas.

The co-ops ought to be involved in this effort because of their "proven record of successful service," said a letter that was submitted to Secretary Lyng by about 100 members of the House of Representatives and 30 senators.

The letter, which recommends that USDA establish this economic development staff under REA, was initiated in the House by Missouri's Rep. Ike Skelton and in the Senate by Senators Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, Howell Heflin of Alabama and Wyche Fowler of Georgia.

The letter was signed by North Carolina's Sen. Terry Sanford and by six members of the Tar Heel congressional delegation: First District Rep. Walter B. Jones, Third District Rep. H. Martin Lancaster, Fourth District Rep. David E. Price, Fifth District Rep. Stephen L. Neal, Eighth District Rep. W. B. (Bill) Hefner and Eleventh District Rep. James McClure Clarke.

Although the development program is envisioned as addressing economic problems in rural areas, the letter said, it would serve a broader national purpose by attempting to reverse negative trends that "are harmful to our entire nation—urban and rural."

The letter added, "The small initiative we are suggesting would be one important step in assisting rural communities to build on their strengths. This approach places the responsibility for rural area development and revitalization on local communities and local institutions—not on the federal government."

That approach has been used successfully in the rural electric program for half a century, as member-owned cooperatives have grown up to become a source of strength for their communities. By extending the benefits of electric power across rural America, these co-ops have been a major force in stimulating the economy in the territories they serve.

The co-ops will continue to play this role whatever course USDA takes with the proposed rural development initiative. It's just part of their broad community-service mission.

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1988
Carolina Country®

(ISSN 0008-6746)
Read Monthly In More Than 340,000 Homes
Volume 20 No. 3, March, 1988

Official Publication
North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives, Inc.
P.O. Box 27306, Raleigh, NC 27611

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Carolina Country (formerly *Carolina Farmer*) is published by the North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives, Inc. Second class postage paid at Raleigh, NC, and additional mailing office. Editorial Offices: P.O. Box 27306, Raleigh, NC 27611. *Carolina Country* is a registered trademark of the North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives, Inc.

Postmaster: send form 3579 to P.O. Box 27306, Raleigh, NC 27611. EMC group subscription $2.50 a year; individual, $3.00.

Address all mail to *Carolina Country*, P.O. Box 27306, Raleigh, NC 27611.

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Advertising that does not conform to these standards or that is deceptive or misleading is never knowingly accepted.

Should you encounter advertising that does not comply with these standards, please inform the editor at P.O. Box 27306, Raleigh, NC 27611.

A Letter From The Editor

Dear Readers,

We're about to open a new chapter in the continuing saga of The Cantankerous Magazine Mailing Labels.

If you've been following this epic, you know that many of our readers have been interested in framing our covers and have had great difficulty removing the mailing labels without damaging the artwork.

We've printed various suggestions for removing the labels, but this has continued to be a problem, based on the comments we receive from the readers. We've also experimented with shifting the position of the labels, hoping this might improve the chances that they could be removed more easily.

That effort was not successful, due to postal regulations governing where the labels can be placed and the limitations of the equipment that is used to affix the labels.

Now, we've made plans to offer our readers a limited number of "mint condition" covers from each issue of the magazine. These will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis. No labels of any kind will be used on these covers.

Beginning with this issue, these covers may be ordered for $1 each—to cover our postage and handling costs. Meanwhile, if you're still interested in trying to remove the label from an old magazine cover, you might follow this suggestion from Mrs. Moody Daugan of Rt. 2, Asheboro.

She wrote to say she'd removed the labels by steaming them over a kettle of boiling water.

"Take off front cover," she wrote, "and hold bottom-side-up over the steam. Take a knife and start at one end of the label. Lift it up. It will peel off and this won't hurt the picture."

Another matter: when we ran our first "Horizon" column in January, we used an illustration that was borrowed from a standard card in the Parker Brothers game, Monopoly. Since it featured the familiar little game character, Rich Uncle Moneybags, we carefully credited the artwork to Parker Brothers.

A letter from the company spelled out an "official" credit line that we should use, but the letter was delayed and did not reach us until after the magazine had been printed. For the record, here's the "official" version: "MONOPOLY® game equipment used with permission from Parker Brothers ©1936."

Best regards,

Owen Bishop

Cover: Photo By Lincoln County Photographer

Our cover this month features a close-up of Easter Lilies that was shot by Anita A. Sain of Rt. 3, Vale.

The photographer and her family are served by Rutherford Electric Membership Corporation, Forest City.

Two Grown Men Can't Pull It Apart! Zoysia Saves Time, Work & Money

So deep-rooted is Amazoy...it grows into practically indestructible turf.

Amazoy is the Trade Mark Registered U.S. Patent Office for our Meyer Z-52 Zoysia Grass

By John T. Jackson

Every year I see people pour more and more money into their lawns. They dig, fertilize and lime. They rake it all in. They scatter their seed and roll and water it.

Birds love it! Seeds which aren't washed away by rain give them a feast. But some seed grows, and soon it's time to weed, water and mow, mow ...until summer comes to burn the lawn into hay, or crabgrass and diseases infest it.

That's what happens to ordinary grass, but not to Amazoy Zoysia.

"MOWED IT 2 TIMES," WRITES WOMAN

For example, Mrs. M. R. Mitter writes me how her lawn "...is the envy of all who see it. When everybody's lawns around here are brown from drought ours just stays as green as ever. I've never watered it, only when I put the plugs in...Last summer we had it mowed (2) times. Another thing, we never have to pull any weeds — it's just wonderful!"

LAWN WATERED ONLY ONCE

And from Iowa came word that the state's largest Men's Garden Club picked a Zoysia lawn as the "top lawn — nearly perfect" in its area. Yet this lawn had been watered only once all summer up to August!

NO NEED TO RIP OUT PRESENT GRASS

Plug Amazoy into old lawn, new ground or nursery area. Just set Amazoy plugs into holes in ground like a cork in a bottle. Plant 1 foot apart, checkerboard style.

When planted in existing lawn areas plugs will spread to drive out old, unwanted growth including weeds —from part shade to full sun. Goes off its green color after killing frosts. Begins regaining its green color at the time when the temperature in the spring is consistently warm. This, of course, varies with climate. Easy planting instructions with order.

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There's no seed that produces winter-hardy Meyer Zoysia. Sod of ordinary grass brings with it the problems of seed: like weeds, diseases, burning out, other ills. Save time, work, money. Plug in Amazoy.

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Your Amazoy lawn takes such wear as cookouts, lawn parties, lawn furniture, etc. Grows so thick you could play football on it and not get your feet muddy. Even if children play on it, they won't hurt it — or themselves.

Amazoy thrives in porous, sandy soil, "builder's soil"— even salty beach areas! Beauty is but one advantage of Zoysia Grass. It's also so vigorous and rich it thrives in soils where lesser grasses have failed you repeatedly. Start your Amazoy lawn this Spring, and never re-seed your lawn again!

Meyer Z-52 Zoysia Grass was perfected by U.S. Gov't.; Released in cooperation with U.S. Golf Assoc. as a superior grass.

Order guaranteed Amazoy now, get your bonus plugs FREE. Your order will be delivered at earliest correct time for planting in your area.

We ship all orders the same day plugs are packed, shipping & handling charges collect via most economical means. For credit card orders shipping & handling costs will be charged to your account.

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Your deep-rooted, established Amazoy lawn saves you time and money in many ways. It never needs replacement ...ends re-seeding forever. Fertilizing and watering (water costs money, too) are rarely if ever needed. It ends the need for crabgrass killers permanently. It cuts pushing a noisy mower in the blistering sun by 2/3.

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Your plugs are shipped to you not cut all the way through, so as to insure maximum freshness and viability. To plant, separate all plugs completely with grass shears or a knife. Any plug failing to grow in 45 days replaced FREE.

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Book: Q&A On Legal Issues

Legal questions that are answered in "plain talk"—that's the idea behind *Assertive Law for North Carolinians,* a book written by a Raleigh lawyer.

The book, which is available in some Wake County bookstores, was written by Ron Campbell, who says it answers the 200 questions consumers ask most—on such subjects as wills, marriage and divorce and juvenile law.

Written to be easy-to-understand, the book has also been used in state high schools and colleges as a reference book on North Carolina consumer law.

The book is priced at $8 per copy and can be obtained by sending a check to Assertive Law, P.O. Box 46, Raleigh, NC 27602. Phone: (919) 828-3333.

Youth Tour Scholarship Goes To Sampson Senior

A Sampson County youth has been awarded the 1988 Gwyn B. Price Youth Tour Scholarship from the Women's Advisory Committee of the statewide organization of Electric Membership Corporations (EMCs).

He is Ricky Ledell Simpson, son of Judy Simpson of Rt. 2, Garland.

A senior at Union High School in Sampson County, he represented Four County EMC, Burgaw, on the Rural Electric Youth Tour to Washington last summer.

The $1,000 scholarship is awarded annually to a high school student selected from among the participants in the previous year's tour.

The recipient is chosen on the basis of scholastic achievement, financial need and extra-curricular activities in the school and community.

About 40 Tar Heel students are chosen by EMCs across the state to participate in the week-long tour, with all expenses covered by the sponsoring cooperatives.

The tour is coordinated by the N.C. Association of Electric Cooperatives.

Town Meetings Planned To Debate Constitution

Two hundred years after North Carolinians debated the pros and cons of the United States Constitution, a re-creation of that event will take place at five northeastern sites in March and April.

"Freedom or Tyranny: A Town Meeting to Discuss Our Proposed National Constitution," will be held in the form of various town meetings with professional actors in costume re-creating the heated debate over radification of the Constitution.

The meetings are sponsored by the N.C. Humanities Council, the Northeastern Historic Places Office and the N.C. Commission on the Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution.

Admission to the meetings is free.

Dates for the meetings are: March 24, Halifax County Courthouse; March 29, Tarboro Calvary Episcopal Church; April 14, St. Thomas Church in Bath; April 21, Museum of the Albemarle in Elizabeth City and April 25, the old County Courthouse in Edenton.

For more details on the meetings, contact Cliff Tyndall at the Eastern Office, Archives and History, 117 W. 5th St., Greenville, NC 27858. Phone: (919) 752-7778.

Co-op Council Re-elects Officers

The manager of Randolph Telephone Membership Corporation, Asheboro, has been re-elected president of the North Carolina Cooperative Council.

Robert Holden was re-elected during the Council's 1988 Annual Meeting in Greensboro. *(See related story page 16).*

Also re-elected were Vance Yokeley, Coble Dairy, Lexington, first vice president and William Goulding, Southern States Cooperative's North Carolina Division, Raleigh, second vice president.

Historic Homes Set For Tour In New Bern

Three centuries of period architecture will be on display April 8-9 at the New Bern Historic Homes & Garden Tour.

Sponsored by the New Bern Historical Society and the New Bern Preservation Foundation, the tour will include 12 historic homes, numerous churches and other landmarks as well as North Carolina's first capital, Tryon Palace, with over 40,000 tulips in bloom.

Tour hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. with advance tickets priced at $10. Tickets will cost $12 on the day of the tour. Groups may

HERE, THERE & EVERYWHERE

qualify for special rates.

Tickets can be obtained by writing the tour at P.O. Box 207, New Bern, NC 28560. For more information call (919) 638-8558 or 633-6448.

Museum To Offer Graduate Work on Decorative Arts

A graduate program focusing on decorative arts of the early South will be offered June 26-July 22 by the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts in Winston-Salem.

Students, teachers and museum professionals are encouraged to apply to the 13th annual program, which will be limited to 20 participants.

Sponsored in conjunction with UNC-Greensboro, the program will include lectures, group discussions, object studies and field trips during the course of the program.

Deadline for applications is April 20. To receive an application or more information on the program, write Sally Gant at the museum at P.O. Box 10310, Winston-Salem, NC 27108. Phone: (919) 722-6148.

Parkway Film Highlights Scenery, Attractions

"The Parkway Promise," a film depicting the sights and scenery of the Blue Ridge Parkway, is now available for limited showings to church, school and civic groups.

Commissioned by the Blue Ridge Parkway Association, the film can be obtained on loan to be shown at various events.

To obtain the film, write Modern Talking Pictures Service, Scheduling Center, 5000 Park St. North, St. Petersburg, FL 33709.

For more information on the film, call the North Carolina Travel & Tourism Division at (919) 733-4171.

Virginia Touring Group To Present English Play

"Relatively Speaking," an English comedy by Alan Ayckbourn, will be presented by the Barter Theatre of Virginia March 21 at 8 p.m. at Hendersonville High School.

The Hendersonville branch of the American Association of

University Women will sponsor the play, with proceeds to benefit scholarships on the national and local level.

Tickets for the production are $8. For further information, call (704) 697-1449.

Lincoln Theatre Guild To Produce "Fallen Angels"

A production of Noel Coward's "Fallen Angels" will make a three-day run, April 28-30, in Lincolnton.

Produced by the Lincoln Theatre Guild, the play will be presented at 8 p.m. at the former Lincoln campus of Gaston College, corner of Main and Cedar Streets.

For more information on the production, write the Guild at P.O. Box 1343, Lincolnton, NC 28093. Phone: (704) 735-1411 or 735-0275.

Continued on page 8

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Executive Mansion Spring Tours Slated Through May 20

The Executive Mansion in Raleigh will be open for spring tours March 8 through May 20.

Reservations are required for tours of the governor's residence, with times still available for groups up to 15 people, individuals and small families.

Reservations are closed for large groups over 15 people.

Thirty-minute tours are set for Tuesday through Friday at 9:30, 10, 10:30 and 11 a.m. and 1:30, 2, 2:30 and 3 p.m.

The Executive Mansion will be closed Apr. 1 in observance of Good Friday.

For details and reservations, contact the Capital Area Visitor Center at 109 E. Jones St., Raleigh, NC 27611. Phone: (919) 733-3456.

Program To Aid Red Tide Victims Needs Your Help

A statewide relief program has been started to aid the victims of the Red Tide disaster along the coast of North Carolina.

The tide, which has damaged the state's shellfishing industry and has caused economic hardship for numerous fishermen, has lingered longer than expected and has put a strain on many coastal families.

"Operation: Red Tide," a program which carries the endorsement of Gov. James G. Martin Jr., will supplement state emergency aid in assisting coastal families that need help with rent, food, insurance and utility bills.

Donations can be sent to: Operation: Red Tide, Division of Emergency Management, 116 W. Jones St., Raleigh, NC 27603.

Perquimans County History Published

A book detailing the history of Perquimans County has been published by the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources.

Perquimans County: A Brief History, is a 122-page paperbound book which surveys the history of one of the state's oldest counties.

Written by Alan D. Watson, a professor at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, the book devotes special attention to the colonial and antebellum periods in which the county provided considerable political leadership to the state.

The book, the 10th in a series of short books on the history of the state's counties, is available through the mail for $5 ($4 for the book and $1 for postage.)

Other counties which have books available are: Edgecombe, Bertie, Burke, Dare, Davie, Lenoir, New Hanover and Rockingham. The book on Rowan County is currently out of print.

To order, write the Historical Publications Section, Division of Archives and History, 109 E. Jones St., Raleigh, NC. Phone: (919) 733-4772.

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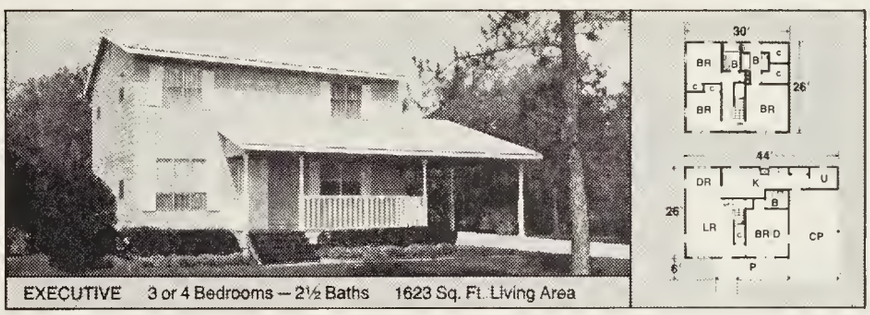

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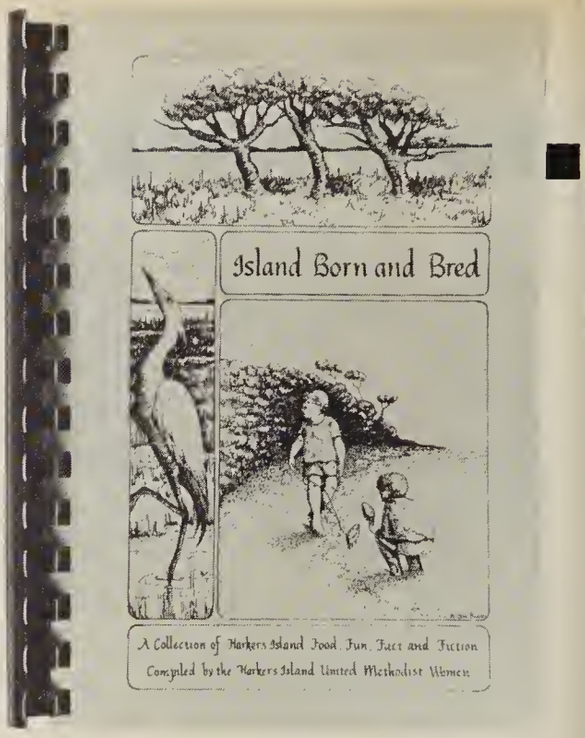
Cookbook Offers Taste Of History

A deep feeling for a quickly changing Harkers Island made "Island Born and Bred" more than just recipes.


Island Born and Bred
A Collection of Harkers Island Food, Fun, Fact and Fiction
Compiled by the Harkers Island United Methodist Women

If you know your way around the kitchen, chances are you can remember times when an "easy" recipe somehow just got out of hand. Yet, the finished product still turned out to be a rousing success.

The women of Harkers Island United Methodist Church know that feeling—from their own cooking experience—and from their first encounter with preparation of a cookbook.

Island Born and Bred was certainly no "piece of cake" to publish. However, the book has proven to be such a hot item it's now in its second printing.

The original recipe for this "easy" book might have gone like this:

Set aside $1,000.

Take a healthy measure of local recipes.

Throw in a dash of Harkers Island history.

Spread evenly over about 200 pages.

Over time, that simple recipe lost its simplicity. The 200-page book grew to 400 pages, with the recipes eventually totaling 625.

The "dash" of local history became a major portion of the book. And the cost was multiplied by 10.

The bottom line: the first printing of 2,000 books in October of last year sold out by Christmas and the second printing of 2,000, which just came out, is going fast. That's a success by any standard.

Karen Amspacher, editor of *Island Born and Bred,* says selling the book has been no problem. Orders poured in so quickly for the first printing that people had to be put on a waiting list to get a copy from the second printing. Mentions in the Raleigh *News and Observer* and on television's "Southern Sportsman" spurred sales further.

For the women, the book had its beginnings after a Christmas bazaar in 1986. Although it was one of the first major projects they had attempted, the bazaar was a huge success. It planted the seed that, together, they could make things happen.

But the group's next project was not going to be a bazaar. "We were about 'bazaared' out," said Amspacher.

Enter *Island Born and Bred.*

Despite their success, selling books and making money were not the primary reasons for doing the book. In fact, the organization decided not to raise the price of the book when it was expanded from 200 to 400 pages.

It was a deep feeling for a quickly changing Harkers Island that was the original idea behind the effort.

"Harkers Island is changing so fast—it's not the place it once was. We felt that the history of Harkers Island needed to be preserved—something to be written down for our children," said Amspacher, an island native.

With tape recorders in hand, the women set out to talk to older residents of the island. The book also utilized research by Joel Hancock and Lillian Davis, a local historian, who made available a book she had done in the 1950s and 1960s.

"As we went on, the history just multiplied," said Amspacher. "Some of it I didn't even know. We found there was more history than we thought."

Sections on historic subjects—island living, schools, churches—to name a few, are scattered throughout the book, with art work by local artists Alison Brooks, Shirley Irvine, Houston Lewis, and Leona Willis highlighting each section.

Although printed in Morehead City, the book was not typeset by computer—a common but expensive practice. Instead, Ruth Paylor hand-typed practically every page on a typewriter.

Getting the book out took many sacrifices by the folks who worked on the project.

"No individual made a dime on the book," said Amspacher. "It was a struggle from the beginning. We would usually get together in the afternoons and do what needed to be done. It was a big job, but we had fun doing it."

Money raised through the sale of the book has gone to a church-sponsored food distribution program to aid victims of the Red Tide disaster.

Copies of *Island Born and Bred* can be purchased from the Harkers Island United Methodist Women for $11.50 each ($10 for the book and $1.50 for postage). Mail orders to P.O. Box 25, Harkers Island, NC 28531.

—Randy Wheeless

Hike May Take Effect In April

NCEMC Officials Say CP&L Can't Justify $24 Million Rate Increase

Officials of North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation (NCEMC) have charged that Carolina Power & Light Company's bid for a 12.16 percent increase in rates charged to the state's electric cooperatives is not justified.

The proposed rate hike would raise the cost of power for North Carolina's consumer-owned EMCs by about $24.4 million annually.

The rates were spelled out in a Feb. 1 filing with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in Washington, the agency that sets wholesale rates charged by investor-owned utilities.

The company is seeking a 13.5 percent return on equity or 10.7 percent overall and is asking to continue a 10-year write-off on the abandonment costs for the three cancelled units of the Shearon Harris Plant in Wake County.

Both issues are being met with resistance by NCEMC.

"We believe CP&L's rate of return is just too high," said Jim Hubbard, executive vice president of NCEMC.

"We also disagree with its 10-year write-off of the cancelled Harris units. A recent ruling by the FERC stated that the write-offs should be equal to the expected life of the plant. In this case, that would be 40 years, not 10."

CP&L says the rate increase is needed to recover the company's $3.9 billion investment in the Harris plant, which went into operation in 1987.

A 6.3 percent wholesale rate increase in 1987 was used to recover part of the Harris investment, with the latest increase planned to recover the remaining portion.

CP&L's proposal calls for raising the company's overall wholesale rates by 11.9 percent or $33.8 million.

If approved, the increase could go into effect April 2, under FERC rules.

However, should the agency grant NCEMC's request for a five-month suspension—the maximum allowed under FERC regulations—the new rates would take effect Sept. 2.

Meanwhile, NCEMC officials will be negotiating with CP&L for a reduction in the filed rates.

Under FERC procedures, wholesale rate increases are allowed to go into effect under bond, subject to later refund. If the commission should rule that the hike is excessive, the extra funds collected by CP&L will have to be refunded, with interest.

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PART II

Cheap Light Bulbs May Not Be The Best Energy Bargain

When it comes to selecting light bulbs, most folks don't exactly struggle over which ones to buy. Yet making the right selection could be one of the best cost-saving steps consumers can take.

Most people buy light bulbs with one thing in mind: price. The cheaper the bulb, the better. However, in the long run, the least expensive light bulb might not be the one with the lowest price.

Take, for instance, the standard incandescent light bulb. Since most homes use this "garden variety" bulb, it would stand to reason that these bulbs are all pretty much alike—so why not buy the one with the lowest price.

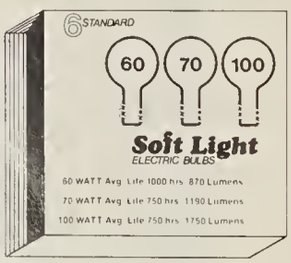
Not so. Price is just one of several items to look for when buying bulbs.

Wattage is the first consideration. However, a common misconception about light bulbs is that their wattage has a direct relation to their light output.

Actually, the number of watts refers to how much energy the bulb uses. Two 100-watt bulbs will use the same amount of energy, but may give off different amounts of light.

The light output is measured in lumens. A bulb's lumens rating would indicate the actual output or brightness. Thus, a bulb with twice as many lumens as a second bulb will give off twice as much light as Bulb No. 2.

Another item to watch is bulb life. This figure will give you the average number of hours of use you can expect before the bulb burns out.



Here are a few tips on how to use the bulbs more efficiently once you have them:

- Instead of using two or more low-wattage bulbs, switch to one bulb of higher wattage. For example, four 25-watt bulbs use the same amount of energy as one 100-watt bulb. However, the 100-watt bulb produces twice as much light as four 25-watt bulbs, and they cost less.

- Use a three-way bulb in table and floor lamps. This will give you a choice of settings, allowing you to use the lowest (and least expensive to operate) setting when the full output of the light is not needed.

- Keep your light bulbs clean. This may sound a bit too tidy for some folks, but dirt and dust can reduce a bulb's light output by as much as 50 percent.

- Lights used in high ceiling fixtures may require long-life bulbs. These bulbs can last up to three times as long as standard bulbs, but may produce only 80 percent of the light of a standard bulb, which means they're cost-effective for other places around the home.

Fluorescents Shine As Money Savers

On almost any scale you'd use, fluorescent bulbs are better than their incandescent cousins.

The fluorescent bulbs are three to five times more efficient than standard incandescent lights—and last 10-20 times longer.

But don't expect fluorescents to take over just yet.

Although fluorescent bulbs that will fit a standard socket are not readily available yet, there are still many uses for such lights around the home.

Fluorescent lights can be quite effective in the kitchen and work room. Anywhere fluorescent lights are used they can save energy.

Two types of fluorescent tubes are readily available: the standard cool white (CW) and the warm white (WW).

Cool white is generally available at most lighting centers. It gives off a cool blue tint which is fine in some cases, but its color effect is not pleasing to some consumers.

Regular incandescent lights give off a warm tone—orange or red. And this is what warm white tubes do.

These tubes may be harder to find, but are often preferred in living areas of the home.

Fluorescent lights can't be used everywhere. In cold weather, they tend to be unreliable and often don't give off as much light as usual. Output may decrease as much as 1 percent for every degree below 65F.

One common misconception about fluorescent lights is that turning them on burns more electricity than burning them for an extended period of time. That's not exactly the case.

As with any light, turning a fluorescent light on and off many times will cause it to burn out more quickly. But this has nothing to do with energy consumption.

The rule of thumb here is when leaving a room for more than 15 minutes, cut the fluorescent light off.

Fluorescent lights also cost more than regular incandescent lights. However, over the long haul, fluorescents offer the best lighting value.

Gets National Honor

North Carolina Co-op Month Observance Cited

The 1987 Cooperative Month Activities in North Carolina have been judged best in the nation by the National Cooperative Month Planning Committee.

In an awards ceremony at the National Council of Cooperatives in Washington, the Cooperative Council of North Carolina and the North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives (NCAEC) were recognized for the series of events and activities that marked last year's Co-op Month observance in October.

Receiving the award as representatives of the two organizations were Dan Cook of the NCAEC and F. Carlyle Teague, executive vice president of the Cooperative Council.

In presenting the award, David Thomas, chairman of the National Cooperative Month Planning Committee, cited the varied activities in the state and the extra effort to provide activities across the state to tell the Cooperative story to a wide segment of the state's population.

"We were especially impressed that participants were not expected to travel for great distances to attend the events," Thomas said. "It took true dedication to hold six events at locations from Greenville to Cullowhee and the attendance was excellent."

NCAEC, a statewide trade association serving the state's 28 Electric Membership Corporations, produced a series of recorded public service radio spots that were distributed to various North Carolina radio stations by the association and its member cooperatives.

In addition, Cook developed a packet of information focusing on cooperative principles and the variety of businesses that operate as cooperatives. The information was distributed to the EMCs for use in employee and consumer education programs.

"Anticipation"

"Anticipation," the Allen Montague painting that appeared on the *Carolina Country* cover in February is being offered to the magazine's readers through a special arrangement with Montague's gallery.

"Anticipation" is available as a signed-and-number limited edition print with an image size of 16 3/8" x 24 1/2" on 18 3/8" x 28" museum quality art stock. The prints are priced at $60 each plus $6 for shipping.

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Reflections Of A Single Parent

After A Divorce: Can The Children Cope?

By Violet Nelson Hart

On a quiet summer evening many years ago I sat out on the carport as my children played nearby, the sounds of their play mingling with my own troubled thoughts.

The two youngest, a girl and a boy, were busy carrying water from an outside faucet and filling a rut in the unpaved driveway. The other, a three-years-older boy, was out walking along the road with a bucket slung over his arm, looking for toads.

Like a mother hen, when darkness approached I wanted my brood safe around me.

At other times, however, they played sandlot ball and basketball with other children at the upper end of the road or next door where the little boy, an only child, generously shared his many toys. Sometimes they were allowed to play in the shallow creek that ran through some nearby woods. And they knew that three toots on the car horn meant it was time to come home.

Mostly, though, they played in their own yard or rode their bicycles up and down the road in front of the house.

One of my own favorite times with them was when the four of us—sandwich and drink in hand—would go to my bedroom to watch Saturday night television. The two younger ones and I would prop ourselves among the pillows on the bed, while the older one preferred his own lounge-chair pad on the floor beside us.

At eleven o'clock, they would roll the black and white portable, our only set, back to the den to watch the weekly science fiction or horror movie, and I would settle down to sleep.

On this particular evening, however, my mood was more introspective. Ours had been a single-parent household for more than a year, and I was still feeling somewhat overwhelmed with total responsibility for my family, in addition to holding down a full-time job.

Violet Nelson Hart of Rt. 12, Lexington, is a native of Caldwell County who writes a weekly column for the Lexington Dispatch. *She has had to use crutches routinely since having a bout with polio at age two. The children she writes about are now grown and away from home. The older son is a computer programmer at the Research Triangle Park while the younger son is a manager of a fast food restaurant in Greensboro. Her daughter, who has three children, lives in Davidson County and is a supervisor at a fast food restaurant.*

We had to do plenty of budget-juggling, sometimes even to the point of "robbing Peter to pay Paul." A lot of "what-ifs" crowded my mind, too—what if I got sick and couldn't work? What if one of the children became seriously ill? What if the car broke down?

Then there were all sorts of critical things that could go wrong around the house: If the pump ran for no apparent reason, did that mean a pipe was leaking? If there was no hot water, was it only a blown fuse or was the water heater in need of repair (or, worse yet, replacement)?

On one occasion, I had been notified that unless the light bill was paid by a certain date, our power would be cut off. With payday only a few days away, I was reluctant to call and ask for extra time. I told myself that they wouldn't cut it off on that *exact* date. By then I'd have the money.

When I drove into the driveway from work on the appointed day, a man walked from around the corner of the house, with our electric meter tucked under his arm! So I wrote a check for the required amount, and he put the meter back in its place as I silently prayed that my paycheck would reach the bank first.

There was also the ever-present, nagging worry of what the divorce might be doing to our children. Were they terribly unhappy? Were they harboring unexpressed fears and anxieties? Were they really headed for juvenile delinquency and social maladjustment so direly predicted by psychologists?

My thoughts drifted back to my own childhood and growing up in the Depression era in rural Western North Carolina. I remembered that pinto beans and potatoes for supper came in awfully long stretches until the

garden came in, with its welcome abundance of summer vegetables for table and canning. A break in our usual breakfast fare came after hog-killing time in November when we would enjoy the family's favorite made-from-scratch buckwheat pancakes served with ham and red-eye gravy.

But it was the happy, carefree times of play with my brothers and sisters and neighborhood children that I remembered most clearly. We had a large front yard, although when I saw it years later I was surprised at how small it actually was. We all frequently gathered in that yard to play tag, hide-and-seek, dodge ball, "Bum! Bum! Bum!" and numerous other group games. Sometimes, when it got too dark to play these games we would sit around on the porch and tell ghost stories or ask riddles and tell jokes.

There was a creek on past the outhouse at the back of the lot, where we spent many happy hours during the summer splashing around in our "pond," although we had been strictly admonished by our parents not to "pond it up." The minnows we caught in a bucket of water were later released, but the unfortunate crawfishes were sacrificed for their "pearls."

We kept a wary eye out for snakes, especially water moccasins since one had been seen once farther downstream in a death struggle with a king snake.

We could almost always count on several snows each winter to give us a break from school. The week or two that we got for Christmas didn't count, of course. Our only regret came at the end of the school year when the make-up days cut into our summer vacation time; no one gave a thought to hot weather. I smile now when I hear the radio announcer say, "If the temperature gets up to 90 today, school will be dismissed."

Since my father worked on the night shift and slept during the day, we never saw much of him until the weekend. However, we learned early on to have a healthy regard for his "razor strop." My mother was a softie whose discipline rod was a keen switch, but she could sometimes be deterred if we could just say something funny enough to get her laughing.

My father also held the notion that if we caused any trouble at school, there could be trouble for us later at home as well. My parents were not by nature openly affectionate toward each other or toward their children, but our home was so filled with warmth and security that I never felt unloved in any way.

The voices of my children brought an abrupt end to my reverie. "Hey, Mom, look!" my oldest was calling from the road. "I caught five frogs!" He proudly held up the bucket as though I could see into it from that distance. "I've already named them, too. There's Mark and David and . . ."

Then the conversation of the two youngest children playing in their driveway mudhole caught my attention:

"Boy!" one was saying to the other, "I'm glad I was born, aren't you?" The other answered just as enthusiastically, "Yeah! Just think of all the fun we'd miss!"

I settled a little farther down in my chair as some of the tension began to ease from mind and body. The money problems were still very real. And there were still many problems to be dealt with, yet the thought was beginning to take shape in my mind that possibly, *just possibly,* one could raise happy, well-adjusted children in the remaining pieces of a "broken home."

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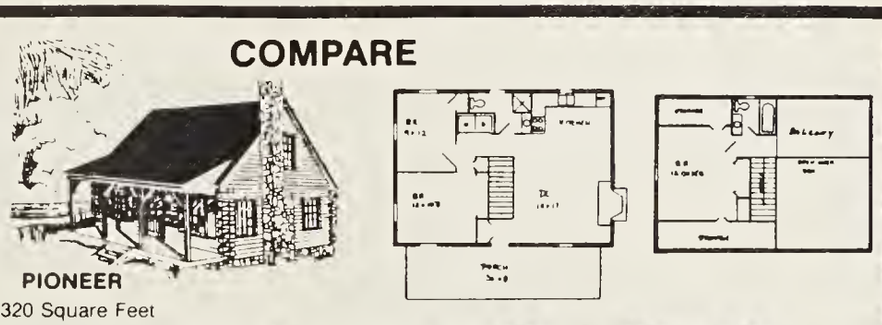

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Co-ops: "Distinctly American In Spirit"

"Meeting the Marketing Challenge," the theme of the Cooperative Council of North Carolina's 53rd Annual Meeting in Greensboro, was the message that was driven home by two of the meeting's main speakers.

Gov. James G. Martin Jr. and Bob Bergland, general manager of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), addressed leaders of the state's cooperatives on how co-ops can remain vibrant—and help keep the state and nation growing.

Gov. Martin said cooperation has helped North Carolina expand its economy, adding that "cooperation" is the key word in the growth and development of the entire nation.

"Few organizations are as distinctly American in spirit as the rural cooperatives," he said. "I particularly like the motto in one of your brochures: 'Without cooperation, nothing can succeed. With it, little can stand in the way of progress.' "

The governor said that through marketing and economic development efforts, North Carolina's stagnant rural economy is beginning to turn around.

"In 1987, 60 percent of the new manufacturing jobs in North Carolina went to towns with less than 10,000 people," Martin said.

Commenting on farmers, Bergland pointed out that the farm population in America is at its lowest level since 1820. Both speakers advocated lending a strong helping hand to the dwindling number of farmers.

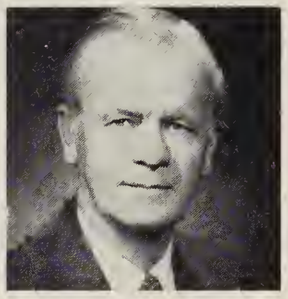
"North Carolina should not forget our farmers," Martin said. "When we're out there recruiting industry, it should not be to replace the jobs that are being lost on the farm."

Bergland said, "We can see that getting and keeping jobs on the rural level isn't going to happen by accident. It's going to require planned assertive action."

In order to market the rural areas for further economic growth, Bergland said, the state's co-ops must zero in on what rural areas have to offer and then promote it.

"The amenities of the rural areas are very attractive," he said, referring to the abundance of land and the low cost of living. "We need to find a way to package it."

Martin



Bergland

Bergland said the recent fire that caused major damage in the NRECA's building in Washington could lead to significant improvements in the association's operations.

"The technology age has revolutionized the modern office," he said. "We're going to accept this fire and take advantage of it. We're going to be better than we were before."

This kind of willingness to change must be adopted by the nation's cooperatives, Bergland said, because in order for co-ops to thrive, they should be looking for ways to change—to change for the better.

"We in the cooperative movement must stay on the cutting edge—on the cutting edge of research and on the cutting edge of social and economic developments."

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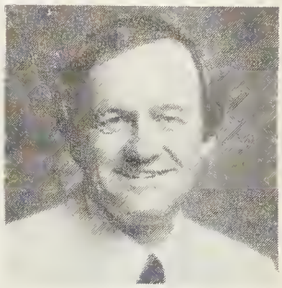
Garner

Tar Heels Elected To National Co-op Posts



Batten

Two North Carolina rural electric leaders have been elected to serve for the coming year as officers of two major national cooperative organizations.

James H. (Jimmy) Garner of Rt. 2, Robbins, was re-elected president of the board of the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC).

Garner, who is a director of Randolph Electric Membership Corporation, Asheboro, has represented CFC's District 1 region since 1983. During the coming year, he will be serving the final year of a second three-year term on the 22-member national board.

The district he represents encompasses New England, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, Virginia and North Carolina.

Prior to his election as board president in February, 1987, the Moore County banker had served as chairman of the CFC loan committee.

CFC, a private lending institution, provides loans to electric cooperatives as a supplement to Rural Electrification Administration financing. A sister organization, the Rural Telephone Finance Cooperative, offers such loans to telephone co-ops. Garner also serves as president of its board.

Meanwhile, David J. Batten, general manager of Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation, Shallotte, was elected vice-president of the Board of Directors of the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative (NRTC).

He has served on the 24-member board since NRTC was organized in 1986 to provide telecommunications services to rural electric and telephone co-ops, including packages of decoded satellite dish programming.

Brunswick EMC was the first North Carolina co-op to establish a program to provide such a satellite dish service.

For a year prior to NRTC's formation, Batten served on an advisory committee that studied the feasibility of establishing such a national co-op venture. That committee became the co-op's first board.

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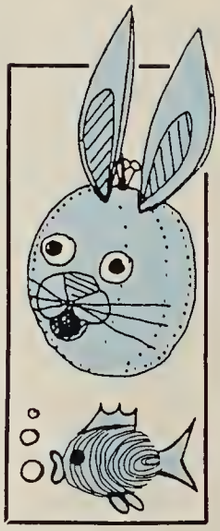

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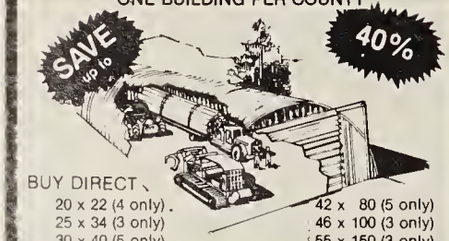

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3 toes of garlic
1 C. uncooked rice
2 sm. cans tomato sauce
2 tomato sauce cans of water
salt and pepper to taste

Best to cook in an electric fry pan — 400 degrees.

Brown ground meat in electric fry pan, add sliced sausage and brown. Add chopped seasonings and stir continuously. Add rice, salt and pepper, stir until browned. Add tomato sauce and water and stir, mixing all ingredients. Cover and turn down thermostat to 250 degrees and cook about 30 minutes. Stir after 15 minutes, should be cooked down but can add more water if too dry. (Serves 6-8)

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Line Doggie—Foot Soldier In Vietnam by Charles Gadd. Presidio Press. 187 pages. $15.95.

Some of the best war books have covered grand strategy on a global scale, but this new book deals only with the gritty, face-to-face fighting that veterans of the Vietnam conflict know all too well.

Line Doggie was written by a North Carolinian, Charles Gadd, who now lives at Wake Forest. The author was himself a "line doggie," as Army fighting men called themselves, and was also a line sergeant who was deeply and personally involved in bitter conflict, winning three Purple Heart medals and two Bronze Star medals for valor.

His gripping story covers a period of one year, the standard tour of duty in 1968. We read about American and enemy ambushes, fire fights involving the M-16 rifle—which could be employed as a light machine gun on "automatic"—grenade launchers, the AK-47 assault rifles used by the Viet Cong ("Charlie") and North Vietnam regular troops and light and heavy machine guns and mortars on both sides.

It was war when the slightest night movement was suspicious, and where the enemy was a master of camouflage and concealment. The Americans were forced to develop skills along those lines—it was the only way to survive. Charles Gadd was clearly a survivor, but he had his share of close ones.

Yet this is more than a story of combat. It has an underlying theme that is familiar to many former combatants in any war. The close relationship that men fighting side by side build up over a period of time is abundantly demonstrated and is a key aspect of the author's narrative.

Thus, we see them relaxing together, while recuperating from wounds, or just in that blessed interval when they are withdrawn from the front lines to spend a few days in a rest camp where the food is hot and plentiful and there is time to relax.

The high technology of modern warfare is also well covered in *Line Doggie*. Automatic weapons are commonplace, and ammunition is spent thousands of rounds at a time. Fighter-bombers launch rockets, napalm and then strafe with a 20-millimeter cannon. And there's "Puff the Magic Dragon," the ancient C-47 transport which has mini-guns firing 6,000 bullets per minute.

Charles Gadd has a vivid story to tell, and he tells it quite well.

—Frank Jeter Jr.

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Tour To Highlight Charlotte Homes

Charlotte's finest homes and gardens will be featured in April at the 35th Mint Museum Home and Garden Tour.

Five homes and five gardens will be featured on the tour, which is co-sponsored by the Charlotte Garden Club and the Women's Auxiliary.

The tour will run April 14-16 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. Tickets are $9 in advance and $10 the day of the tour. A gardens-only tour is scheduled for April 17, with tickets priced at $3.

The Home and Garden Symposium will be held April 12 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Marriott City Center.

The event, featuring nationally known experts in home and garden design, will include lunch and a fashion show. Tickets are $50 and can be obtained by mailing a check to Ann Lee, 3228 Windbluff Dr., Matthews, NC 28105.

For more information, write to the Mint Museum at 2730 Randolph Rd., Charlotte, NC 28207, Phone: (704) 337-2000.

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Fire Damages Electric Co-op Association's Headquarters

The Washington, DC, headquarters of the nation's 1,000 rural electric cooperatives was severely burned in late December when a desktop calculator caught fire, causing an estimated $3.3 million worth of damage.

The blaze, which was already out of control by the time fire fighters arrived on the scene at the eight-story Dupont Circle offices of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, gutted most of the building's third floor and damaged the other floors with soot and smoke.

The second floor was flooded by water used to douse the fire.

Workers from the building's second and third floors will be housed at another office building for several months while clean-up is completed.

National Panel Urges USDA To Play Rural Development "Advocate" Role

The U.S. Agriculture Department should change its focus to become a stronger advocate for rural development in the face of declining farm employment, a USDA advisory panel has concluded.

"Because of the importance of non-farm sources of income to a growing number of rural Americans, we believe the USDA should increase its emphasis on non-agricultural aspects of rural development, and therefore, increased priority should be placed in this area," the National Advisory Council on Rural Development declared after a recent meeting in Washington.

The panel, made up of 30 farmers, rural business leaders and state and local officials appointed last spring by Agricultural Secretary Richard Lyng, concluded its meeting by approving a list of 10 recommendations for USDA rural development policy.

Those suggestions included:

- Streamlining and coordinating government programs that deal with rural development efforts.
- Encouraging the use of "appropriate" telecommunications technology to help rural Americans "benefit from the transition to an information-based economy rather than fall victim to it."

Several recommendations—and much of the panel's discussion—dwelled on the need to find private-sector agencies that can assist USDA in finding solutions to the development needs of rural America. And one of the panel's members said the rural electric systems are in a position to take the lead in that effort.

"There's no existing group that is more involved in rural America than the rural electric program," declared Gary Whitener, a farmer and manager of Rutherford Electric Membership Corporation, Forest City.

"Our rural electrics are in place. They're ready-made to set these meetings up and help these communities assess what those needs are."

Whitener said other council members requested a report on rural electric utility activity on the rural development front nationwide. That report is expected to be presented at the group's spring meeting.

Deputy Agriculture Secretary Peter Myers promised the group he would present its recommendations to Lyng with his enthusiastic backing, and he predicted that the department would adopt much of the report as policy.

"I like it all," he said. "It's just a matter of how fast we can do it and [whether] we have the resources. It's a critical area and we're going to address it."

Meanwhile, at least 100 members of the House and 30 senators have signed a letter to Lyng asking him to create a new unit within USDA's Rural Electrification Administration made up of 10 professional economic developers who would provide guidance and technical help to co-ops involved in rural development projects.

The letter was initiated in the House by Rep. Ike Skelton (D-MO) and in the Senate by Senators Mitch McConnell (R-KY), Howell Heflin (D-AL) and Wyche Fowler (D-GA).

Polls: Many Americans Unimpressed With The New "Simplified" Tax Forms

Now that tax deadline time is here, polls show that more people dislike the new "simplified" tax forms than approve of them.

And, a recent poll shows that more dislike the whole new tax system than like it, even though the rates have come down. It seems they miss the deductions they could take under the previous system.

A recent poll showed that 32 percent of those polled liked the old system better and only 18 percent are happier. One-half said they were undecided.

Probably one thing that caused complaints was the complexity of the new forms. That has led to the promise that the forms will be simpler next year.

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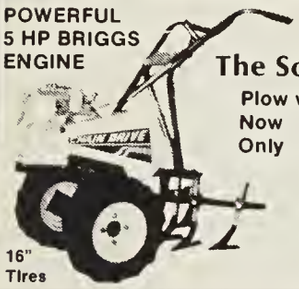

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Louisiana Governor-Elect Addresses Tar Heel Group At National Meeting

Governor-elect Buddy Roemer of Louisiana addresses a luncheon meeting of the North Carolina Rural Electric Action Program (REAP) in New Orleans during the 1988 Annual Meeting of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. Roemer, who has represented Louisiana in Congress since 1981, will take office as Governor March 14. From the left are Roemer and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Shepherd of Rt. 2, Lansing. Shepherd, a director of Blue Ridge Electric Membership Corporation, Lenoir, is chairman of REAP.

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"Constructive Virtues" Are Scarcely Noticed

The following quote is attributed to James Peter Warbasse, a noted American philosopher on consumer cooperation who was founder of the Cooperative League of the USA—now known as the National Cooperative Business Association (NCBA). It's reprinted from NCBA's Cooperative Business Journal.

There are noble ideas, there are honest and capable people, and there are splendid and constructive events taking place every day and every hour. But these are not in the political field nor are they newsy occurrences.

The constructive things going on everywhere in the world are quiet events. They lack dramatic or tragic appeal. They are not at the hands of the captains of industry, the diplomats, the politicians, the admirals, and the generals. They are the events created by common people.

Constructive events are changing the picture of the world before our very eyes and yet are scarcely seen. Not only are intelligent plans for world betterment proposed and formulated, but they are being put into operation. Not only are lofty ideals expressed, but they are in action. Not only are brotherhood, mutual aid and self-help advocated, but they are to be seen in organized and practically promoted forms in every country in the world.

While injustices and the promotion of sufferings are conspicuous and their knowledge is in every mind, quiet and constructive virtues are scarcely noticed or ever known.

TODAY.

If you need help doing your taxes, call or visit your local IRS office. And make your taxes less taxing.

Make your taxes less taxing. Do them today.

Calendar Confusion: Why "Leap Year Day"

The following is excerpted from a column on the origins of "Leap Year Day"—Feb. 29—by Jerry Kirk, editor of Tennessee Magazine, *the Volunteer State's counterpart to* Carolina Country.

How did this strange extra day that is on our calendar every four years come to be in the first place?

Well, it all has to do with making the calendar year jibe with the solar year (the exact time it takes the earth to make a complete revolution around the sun). It works like this:

Since the calendar year contains only 365 days, an extra day is added every four years to correct the difference between the calendar year and the solar year. Leap Years, by the way, occur in every year that can be divided evenly by four, except the years that mark the even hundreds, such as 1900. The only century years that are Leap Years are those that can be divided evenly by 400 — like 1600 and 2000.

To explain further, the addition of that extra day on Feb. 29 every Leap Year makes the calendar year 11 minutes and 14 seconds too long. So, to adjust, Leap Year is omitted in the century years, except those that can be divided by 400. That's why we'll have 366 days in the year 2000 while 1900 had only 365 days.

It all boils down to this: The difference between calendar and solar years will vary only one day over a period of several thousand years.

Annual Meetings Calendar

Date	Electric Membership Corporation	Time	Location
March			
19	Edgecombe-Martin County, Tarboro	Registration: 12:30 p.m. Business Meeting: 2:00 p.m.	Edgecombe Community College, Tarboro
24	South River, Dunn	Registration: 6:30 p.m. Business Meeting: 8:00 p.m.	Cumberland County Memorial Auditorium, Fayetteville
25	Jones-Onslow, Jacksonville	Registration & Health Fair: 4:00-7:00 p.m. Business Meeting: 7:00 p.m.	Jacksonville High School, Jacksonville
25	Wake, Wake Forest	Registration: 6:30 p.m. Business Meeting: 7:30 p.m.	Wake Forest-Rolesville High School, Wake Forest
26	Halifax, Enfield	Registration: 9:00 a.m. Business Meeting: 11:00 a.m.	Enfield Middle School, Enfield
April			
8	Piedmont, Hillsborough	Registration: 7:30 p.m. Business Meeting: 8:00 p.m.	Orange High School Auditorium, Hillsborough
16	French Broad, Marshall	Registration: 3:00 p.m. Business Meeting: 6:00 p.m.	Marshall-Madison High School, Marshall By-Pass

NCSU Award Cites Davidson Dairyman

Eston S. Stokes of Rt. 2, Linwood, president of the Board of Directors at Davidson Electric Membership Corporation, Lexington, has been named the recipient of the 1988 Marvin E. Senger Distinguished Dairyman Award.

STOKES

Presented by the Animal Science Department of North Carolina State University, the award exemplifies success on the family dairy farm. Stokes currently has 120 acres of crop land, 20 acres of pasture and a herd of 70 animals in Davidson County.

Stokes was also cited for his strong support of community and organizational efforts. In addition to serving as a director of Davidson EMC for 36 years, Stokes has served as president of the American Dairy Association of North Carolina, the N.C. Purebred Dairy Cattle Association and the N.C. Guernsey Breeders Association.

A breeder of quality Guernsey cattle, Stokes has won his share of classes and championships at the N.C. State Fair over the past 30 years. He is a member of the Fair's Livestock Hall of Fame.

A 1941 graduate of NCSU, he was an Extension agent until 1953, serving in Stokes and Davidson Counties. He purchased his first calf in 1943 and began milk sales to Coble Dairy in 1948.

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HANK'S GARDENING GUIDE

Spring has begun her annual trek, working her magical burst of color along the way. The gardener's urge to plant is exceeded only by the vast range and wonderful supply of plant materials available for planting.

In late March and April it is safe to "shoot the works." If you live in mountainous areas, it probably will be safer to wait a few short weeks.

Divide Mums

Now's an excellent time to dig and divide chrysanthemums, particularly the hardy mums. They do best when started from new plants each year. You can get new plants by dividing an established clump with new growth. When you dig a clump, pull the plantlets apart and cut them from the cluster.

Don't Make Mountains of Molehills

A problem to many gardeners is moles. These pests burrow beneath the soil surface forming a mole run of mounded soil. This is their method of seeking food, grubs that live in the soil.

Although most obvious in lawn areas, moles sometimes form tunnels in vegetable and flower gardens and sometimes in shrubbery borders.

Many treatments for moles have been used by gardeners, usually with disappointing or temporary success. Among these are:

- Razor blades inserted into the "run" with the theory that the mole will cut himself and bleed to death.
- Moth balls, hot pepper, onions and garlic to repel.
- Chewing gum to "clog" the mole's digestive system.
- Castor beans to poison.
- Fish heads to create a repulsive odor.
- Cats to catch and eat them.
- Vibrations, such as from a lawn mower left running over the tunnel for five or ten minutes.
- Tobacco ashes from pipes or cigarettes.

Perhaps the best control is a mole trap. Although a bit expensive, the trap is very effective. Some neighbors have "chipped in" together to buy a trap, since moles often move on to a neighbor's yard when their tunnels are disturbed.

Two chemicals give good mole control: Spectracide and Diazenon. Either chemical kills grubs, forcing the moles to move elsewhere for food. The granular form of either is recommended. Place the granules every 12 to 14 inches in the mole tunnel.

Spruce Up Liriope

Liriope is an evergreen grasslike perennial that makes a tough border or ground cover. Its traditional use is to line walkways in formal landscapes. After several years of growing in the same location, liriope can become large and crowded. As with other plants, it responds well to a periodic renewal. This is best done before new growth begins in the spring.

To thin liriope, use a sharp spade to cut through the stand, removing part of it to narrow the border. Or you can dig it all up, divide and reset.

Even if liriope is not in need of separating and resetting, now is the time to cut away old, diseased or cold-damaged leaves. This reduces the bulk and improves the appearance when new leaves come out.

Pussy Willow Roots Easily

The pussy willow is one of the easiest woody plants to root and is one of the fastest growing.

When catkins (the "kittens" on the stems) are showing it's a good time to cut branches for rooting. Place cut stems in a container of water in a sunny window. Roots will appear in a few weeks and the cuttings can be planted outdoors in a sunny spot.

Pussy willow grows either as a shrub of a few stems or as a small tree. It prefers wet soil but will grow satisfactorily in any fairly good soil with average moisture. It's a good choice if you have a low moist spot in the landscape.

If You Can Grow Weeds, You Can Grow Vegetables

If you have an area where weeds thrive, you can have vegetables growing in their place—with the right preparation and care.

Vegetables need five or six hours of full sun every day, so select a spot where they'll get sun every day the sun shines. Usually you can utilize an open area if it is located near a source of water. Watering will be essential when dry weather arrives.

If you're planning to grow vegetables for the first time, don't bite off more than you can eat. You don't want summer garden work to bog you down and become a chore. But you'll surely want to include some home-grown salad ingredients—loose-leaf lettuce, tomatoes, spring

onions, sweet peppers and cabbage.

For an addition to almost any vegetable salad, you'll want the humble radish. It's an encouraging choice for the beginning gardener. Radishes pop up and mature quickly.

Now's the time to prepare the vegetable plot to receive seeds of corn, beans, cucumber, okra, squash and other summer vegetable crops after the danger of frost is over in your area.

Rose Care

Pruning of roses gets under way in earnest in late March and early April. You'll want to cut away wood and weak growth. Cut back to good, strong canes (stems) to about 10 to 12 inches on hybrid teas and 18 inches on hybrid perpetuals.

If you're setting out new plants, get them in the ground before they no longer are dormant. Growth buds are beginning to pop out fast.

Shrubs for Shade

If you've a shady spot in your yard, select from this list of shrubs:

- Acuba
- Azalea
- Boxwood
- Camellia japonica
- Daphne
- *Eleagnus
- *Euonymus
- Hemlock
- Leucothe
- Ligustrum
- Mountain andromeda
- Oregon Grape (Mahonia)
- *Osmanthus
- Rhododendron
- *Viburnum
- Wax Myrtle

*Prefer sun, but will tolerate considerable shade

Aphid Control

Inspect all new growth for signs of the ever-troublesome aphid. This pest multiplies rapidly and can cause considerable damage before it is even suspected. Wash off what aphids you can with a forceful blast of water from the garden hose. Use an insecticide if necessary.

Watch broadleaf evergreens such as camellia, holly, euonymous and gardenia for scale insects. Treat with an oil spray if scales are found.

—Hank Smith

PLANTS NOT Seeds

TOMATOES AS BIG AS HONEY DEW MELONS

Bigger than Beefsteaks — Earlier, Too!

Pictured here less than half size

New Supersteak Hybrid Tomato Grows Super-Size Delicious Tomatoes.

Less than 50¢ a plant!

We have never seen a giant-fruited tomato like the new Supersteak hybrid tomato. We've compared it to all the other Beefsteak-type tomatoes not only for size and quality but also for earliness and Supersteak wins hands down.

Supersteak's fruits are not only HUGE — as big as honeydew melons — they are smooth, round, meaty and absolutely delicious, weighing up to 2 lbs (and more) a piece. One slice covers an entire slice of bread, and it's not just one or two special fruits that grow that way — but dozens on a single plant, so firm and meaty if you tried to pick the whole vine at one time you would need a *wheelbarrow* to take them to the kitchen.

What's more, you don't receive seeds like many other companies send out. We supply ACTUAL ROOTED *TRANSPLANTS* carefully packed in strong cartons and shipped to you by UPS for guaranteed safe, fast delivery. Also, we send them at the proper planting time for your area. All you do is set the plants into your garden and enjoy the show as the plants surge forth, flowering prolifically, then setting heavy clusters of beautiful scarlet-red mammoth tomatoes the size of *honeydew melons*. And it all happens in the incredibly short time of 80 days from setting out your transplants, at the miniscule price of pennies a pound.

Don't delay. Send us your order NOW so we can reserve your plants for shipping by UPS at your proper planting time.

SPECIAL NOTE TO WORLD RECORD CONTESTANTS

Here's a special secret: the world's record weight for a tomato is 6 lbs. 8 ozs. In case you grow a tomato that beats the world record we include FREE with every order instructions on how to have your record-winner recognized by the Guinness Book of World Records.

Look! Supersteak tomato compared in size to a Honeydew Melon. One slice can completely cover a slice of bread. Remember, we send you *plants*, not seeds to get you half-way there.

Mail to: **Spring River Nurseries, Inc., Dept. ST-121**
Spring River Road, Hartford, Michigan 49057

Please send me the following quantities of Supersteak hybrid tomatoes:

☐ **10 Plants** for **$ 4.95** plus **$1.75** postage & handling
☐ **20 Plants** for **$ 7.95** plus **$2.00** postage & handling
☐ **50 Plants** for **$14.95** plus **$3.50** postage & handling

Sorry, we cannot ship less than 10 plants because of UPS minimum shipping charges. If you cannot use all 10, share them with a friend or neighbor.

Enclosed is $_____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Note: You must include *street* address for UPS delivery. Plants will be shipped at proper planting time for your area.
Michigan residents please add state sales tax

Auto Insurance Discounts To Be Offered

A new law in North Carolina permits insurance companies to offer special discounted rates for drivers who're 55 or over. When that measure was being reviewed by legislators last year, Insurance Commissioner Jim Long was one of its strongest backers. Appearing before a committee of the House of Representatives, Long explained the rationale for the lower rates.

He said that while North Carolinians 55 and over comprise 24 percent of the motorists on the highway, they have had only 12 percent of the accidents.

Another group backing the discounts was the North Carolina Senior Citizens Association, whose representative also offered testimony in committee hearings.

North Carolina motorists who have good driving records and who have attained the age of 55 now have an opportunity to ask their friendly neighborhood insurance agent an interesting question:

"Does your company allow discounts on auto insurance for those who are 55 and older?"

The next question, of course, will depend on the agent and his customer. But it is a fact that North Carolina now has a law, General Statute 58-124.23 (a), which allows auto insurance companies to offer discounts to mature motorists.

The companies call such prices "deviations," which means that they deviate from established rates. Such deviations can be offered on all kinds of auto insurance.

Although the law was passed in the summer of 1987 and has been in effect since last fall, only two insurers have applied (and been approved) to offer the discounts. The lower rates will take effect on April 1.

State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company, a major operator with agents in all parts of North Carolina, will offer a 10 percent deviation to drivers 55 and older on liability insurance, medical payments, comprehensive and collision insurance. This company worked for passage of the legislation when it was being considered by the North Carolina General Assembly in 1987.

First of Georgia Insurance Company will also offer a 10 percent discount on the same categories of insurance that State Farm offers.

Does this mean that 10 percent is the maximum deviation allowed by the law? No. According to Charles Swindell, a policy and rate analyst with the North Carolina Department of Insurance, the discount can be whatever the insurance company decides to offer. The law sets no maximum or minimum.

During legislative hearings some consideration was given to allowing lower insurance rates to mature drivers who had successfully completed a refresher course in operating automobiles. But the law as enacted has no such requirement.

However, North Carolina is one state selected for a two-day refresher course called "55 Alive/Mature Driving," which is offered by AARP, the American Association of Retired Persons. And many older drivers have taken advantage of this training.

Although only two underwriters have offered the lower-cost insurance, the opportunity is open to any company doing business in the state. To qualify, application must be made to the North Carolina Department of Insurance in Raleigh. The proposed discount must be part of the application.

So if you're an older driver with a good driving record, you have the opportunity to ask your insurance underwriter if you will be eligible for any across-the-board discount.

You Can Postpone Capital Gains Tax Obligation On A House Sale

A reader in beautiful Watauga County wants more information on the tax exemption for capital gains from the sale of a house.

Any homeowner can delay paying the tax by buying a new residence of equal value. Let's say your "basis" (that's what you paid) in your house is $30,000 and you sell it for $90,000. If you buy another dwelling for at least $90,000, the gain is postponed.

Those 55 and over have another opportunity, but it can only be used once in your lifetime. You may avoid tax on profits up to $125,000.

To do this, you elect to take the exemption, using either a Form 2119 or a signed statement. You must be at least 55 on the day of the sale, and you must have used the house as your principal residence for at least three out of the last five years. The three years need not be consecutive. (Beware of renting the house more than two years!) The residence requirement calls for ownership and use for 36 full months or 1,095 days.

Use this exemption carefully. It only comes up once. And it does not apply to that second house at the beach or mountains because it was not your principal residence.

DOES 60 lbs. OF TOMATOES FROM ONE YIELD SOUND INCREDIBLE?

NOT IF YOU OWN THE Amazing TREE TOMATO

(Cyphomandra betacea)

GROWS INDOORS OR OUTDOORS . . . YOU PICK BASKET AFTER BASKET OF RIPE, TASTY TOMATOES . . . ONE BUMPER CROP AFTER ANOTHER . . . 5 TO 7 MONTHS A YEAR . . . YEAR AFTER YEAR!

We Get Letters!

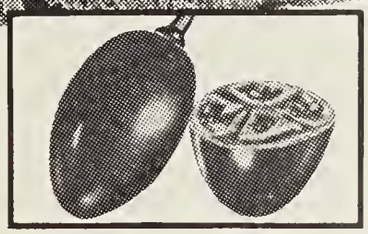
Read what Mr. L. F. S. of Wisc. has to say: "...Just a line to let you know the Tree Tomato is doing great . . . about 5½ ft. tall . . . you said leaves grew 12" . . . mine are 15 and 16". It's just beautiful!"

Noted Citriculturist of New Zealand says:

"Ripening in New Zealand from late April to early November, the tree tomato has a very long fruiting season. Its wide range of culinary uses make it a valuable winter and spring fruit . . . a welcome addition to the menu."

"Although introduced into New Zealand many years ago, it is only in recent years that the tree tomato has become better known for its many uses. It is now much sought after, and its popularity is indicated by the high price realized for it on local markets . . . Under suitable conditions the plant will produce from 40 to 60 lbs. of fruit annually."

CAN BE TUB-GROWN INDOORS FOR YEAR-'ROUND TOMATO HARVESTS!



From New Zealand comes the biggest garden sensation of the century . . . THE PERENNIAL TOMATO!

The **TREE TOMATO** . . . a remarkable new horticultural concept . . . unlike anything you've ever seen before! **NOT** a vine . . . **NOT** a regular tomato plant that withers and dies after one summer . . . the **TREE TOMATO** is a living, growing tree that **BEARS FRUIT SEASON AFTER SEASON . . . YEAR AFTER YEAR!**

Why settle for garden-fresh tomatoes a few short weeks of the year? Why put up with hothouse tomatoes that taste like cardboard the rest of the time? Not when you can pick crop after crop of red, plump juicy **TREE TOMATOES** up to 7 months a year (all year 'round when grown indoors!)

WAVE AFTER WAVE OF SUCCULENT TREE TOMATOES GROW AS QUICK AS YOU CAN PICK 'EM!

Your **TREE TOMATO** will arrive already leafed-out . . . in full, green hardy vigor! When ready to bear, the branches will literally droop with huge clusters of delicious **TREE TOMATOES,** hundreds upon hundreds . . . and, as one crop is harvested, another rushed forth to take its place . . . so you have a virtually constant supply of luscious **TREE TOMATOES!**

GROW IT OUTDOORS AS A TREE—INDOORS AS A HOUSEPLANT!

The TREE TOMATO will thrive marvelously—indoors or out! If you live in a temperate zone, plant it outdoors and enjoy its bountiful, exotic beauty in your garden! Or, tub-grow the TREE TOMATO, bring it indoors for winter, and surprise your family and friends with ripe, just-picked tomatoes even during the coldest months of the year! Or . . . cultivate the TREE TOMATO as a house-plant anytime . . . anywhere! The TREE TOMATO will achieve heights of up to 8 ft. outdoors, but it can be trimmed and trained to any size or shape you wish!

ENJOY TREE TOMATOES SO MANY DELECTABLE WAYS!

We think TREE TOMATOES are much tastier than ordinary tomatoes . . . it's hard to find a meatier, firmer, more bursting-with-goodness taste treat! Rich in Vitamin C, TREE TOMATOES are fabulous in salads, sandwiches and are absolutely fantastic just sliced up and popped in your mouth!

Nothing beats fresh produce, so why continue to pay high supermarket prices for inferior tomatoes, when you can grow your own TREE TOMATOES! REMEMBER, WE SHIP MATURE PLANTS . . . NOT SEEDS . . . ORDER YOUR TREE TOMATOES TODAY! Full growing instructions included.

LAKELAND'S DOUBLE GUARANTEE

All plants must arrive in perfect condition. If you are not totally satisfied with any order, return within 10 days for a prompt replacement or refund of purchase price (except post. & hdlg.). And all plants **must thrive** after planting, or return anytime within 3 months for prompt replacement—no questions asked!

LAKELAND NURSERIES SALES, Hanover, Pa. 17333

SATISFACTION GUARANTEED! MAIL COUPON TODAY!

LAKELAND NURSERIES SALES, Dept. LKL-2656
340 Poplar St., Hanover, Pa. 17331

Sure, I want to enjoy fresh-picked tomato goodness—even out of season! Kindly RUSH TREE TOMATOES (L101170E) as indicated below on money-back guarantee.

- ☐ 1 TREE TOMATO @ only $5.99 + 90¢ post. & handl.
- ☐ 2 TREE TOMATOES @ only $9.99 + $1.40 post. & handl.
- ☐ 4 TREE TOMATOES @ only $16.99 + $2.40 post. & handl.

Enclosed is $_____ (Pa. residents add sales tax.)

PRINT NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

☐ Check here and send 50¢ for a year's subscription to our full color nursery catalog (L389957X).

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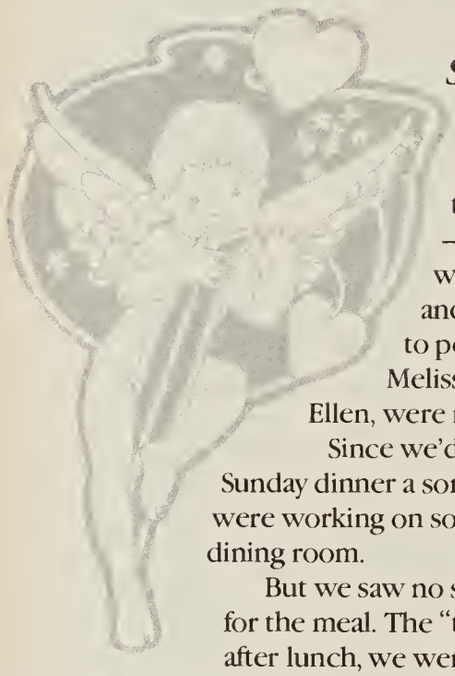
By Owen Bishop



"Top Secret" Project Yields A Special Valentine's Day Treat

We knew something was up when the children disappeared into the basement to make some Valentine's Day decorations—and announced that their work space was closed to all grown-ups. Mom, Dad and even the Grandparents were not allowed to peek at what they were working on, said Melissa, who's 11. She and her sister, 4-year-old Ellen, were not to be disturbed!

Since we'd talked about making our Valentine's Day Sunday dinner a sort of family-style party, we thought they were working on something to add a festive touch to the dining room.

But we saw no sign of such as we prepared to sit down for the meal. The "top secret" project would be unveiled after lunch, we were told.

As we cleared away the dishes, the girls ran off to make a few last-minute preparations for the "show" they'd be presenting in the living room.

In a few minutes, Melissa summoned us to take our seats. She stood by a cardboard box that was covered with hearts and other colorful decorations. Several sheets of aluminum foil served as a lid for the box.

Ellen had somehow disappeared. We called her repeatedly without a response.

"She'll be here," said Melissa, grinning.

Then, she pulled back the foil with a flourish to reveal our own Valentine's Day "cupid." It was Ellen, wearing an ill-fitting toddler size paper diaper, a holdover from the days when they were part of her daily wardrobe.

Ellen jumped up to spread her arms in a grand gesture as her sister beamed beside her. The "audience" responded with laughter and enthusiastic applause.

The wingless "cupid" had no bow and arrow, but she and her sister managed nonetheless to pierce four hearts on that very special Valentine's Day.

Media Ruffled No Feathers In Covering This Big Story

You may well have missed one of the biggest sports stories of the past several months while you were keeping up with the repercussions of the NFL strike, the "Road to the Super Bowl" and the Winter Olympics.

Most of the media just simply "blew it" on this story out of New Mexico.

As a public service, we'll pass along the highlights, courtesy of a wire service story that made its way into a few newspapers around the country.

A duck named Oliver South emerged as grand champion of the eighth annual Great American Duck Race in Deming, NM, an event that attracted 45,000 visitors to the town of 12,000.

The winning duck was one of 10 entered in the race by one Robert Duck (yes, D-U-C-K), who took home $4,300 in winnings from the race, which is co-sponsored by Ugly Ducking Rent-a-Car and the local Chamber of Commerce.

Duck, a businessman from Albuquerque, is not related to the car rental company's owner, Tom Duck Sr.

Robert Duck, who posted his sixth consecutive victory in the race, said he spurred the champion on with a stirring motivational message: "I told him if he didn't win, he'd go through the shredder."

Duck's other entries included one named Tammy Faye: "She's a great racer but she gets makeup all over you." Another was Oral Rodriguez: "I told him if he didn't make the finals, the Lord would call him home." Oral did and was spared.

Duck, who has been training ducks for the annual race since 1980, uses a computer to pick the top competitors.

"I have a spreadsheet, Lotus 1-2-3, to keep track of their times. The slow ones don't race."

Southern States

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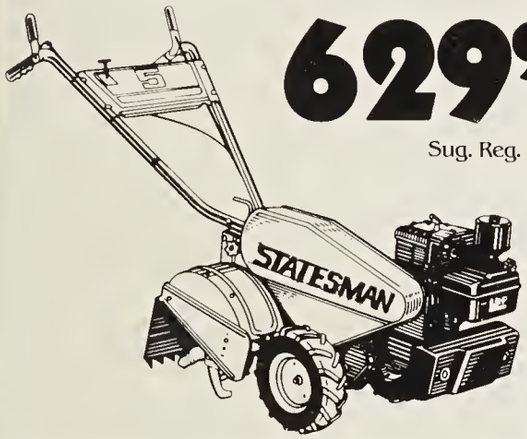
Now thru April 2

Statesman 5 hp Rear-Tine Tiller

No. 5053-81. Briggs & Stratton engine. Reverse direction. 18 in. tilling width. 5-position depth control. Swing handle. Independent wheel/tine engagement. 3 qt. gas tank. #103-75053



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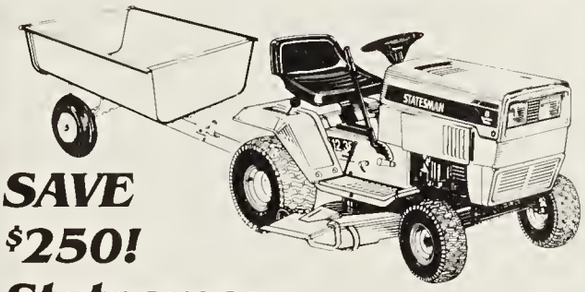

SAVE $250!

Statesman 12 hp Lawn Tractor

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10 cu. ft. Pull Cart

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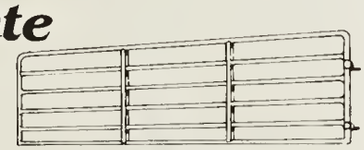
12 ft. Double welded, double braced construction. Has safety rolled corners and edges. Red. #100-28000



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High-Tensile Barbed Wire

4 pt. 5 in. Class III zinc coating. 80 rod rolls.

Motto Jr. 18 ga. #081-24840

19.49 Sug. Reg. 22.99

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Southern States MEDALLION QUALITY FEEDS

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$1 per 50 lb. bag on Southern States Medallion Quality Horse Feeds

Jet Sprayer

No. 425. High impact plastic knapsack sprayer. 16 ft. vertical reach. 4 gal. tank. #066-82835

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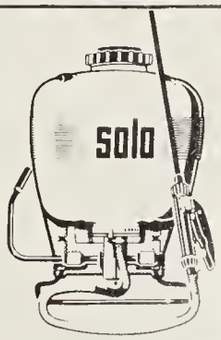

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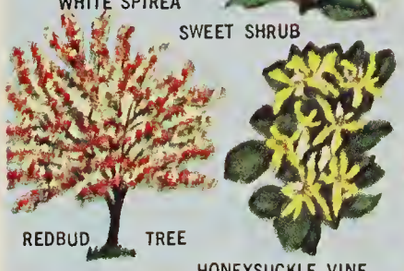
ALL FOR ONLY $4.98

YES! this is our biggest Flower Bargain in America Today!



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Each item we ship is exactly as advertised . . . vigorous and healthy, tagged for easy identification, well packed for prompt arrival in good condition. If not satisfied on arrival, you may return within 15 days for full refund. Any plant that doesn't flourish and thrive, we will replace it free (3 year limit). Clip out the coupon and mail today!

Masses of Blooms Year After Year—Without Replanting!

Thrill to the splendor of flowering shrubs, blooming bushes, gorgeous garden plants, spectacular trees, vines . . . all at the lowest cost imaginable. Today . . . mail coupon for this amazing bargain offer. With the Weeping Willow you get FREE of extra cost for mailing your order early, you get 16 plants, our finest planting stock . . . all for only $4.98 . . . less than 31¢ each!

Gorgeous Landscape of Perfectly Balanced Colors, Shapes, Sizes!

All this for only $4.98? Unbelievable but true. Every variety in this carefully planned selection is graded to heights for lining out, designed to compliment one another in a perfectly balanced blend of gorgeous colors, shapes, and sizes that landscapes the average grounds into a blooming GARDEN OF EDEN! Grows more beautiful, more valuable year after year. Yet this entire 16-piece assortment is yours for only $4.98!

Every Plant Certified Healthy and Fully Guaranteed!

This 16-piece big bargain assortment is nursery grown from seed or cuttings or nursery grown transplants . . . certified healthy in state of origin . . . shipped vigorously alive, well-rooted. 1-2 ft. tall, 1 or 2 yrs. old, an ideal size for original transplanting. All tagged with individual item name. To order this money-saving offer mail coupon. Do it now!

20 PRIVET HEDGE PLANTS - $4.98

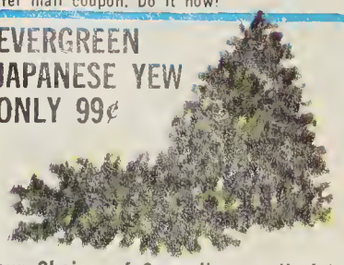
20 Fast Growing Plants to Make 40 Feet of Formal Hedge

Imagine a 40 foot privet hedge for less than 13¢ per foot of hedge! For more dense growth, order 40 plants for only $9.50 and plant every 12 inches. We ship the Ligustrum Species that best suits your climate.

Super Fast Growing HYBRID POPLARS 3 for $5.95

(Populus deltoides x populus nigra)

Grows 4-8 ft. a year . . . 20-30 ft. in only 5 years! Handsome well-shaped trees feature rich dark green foliage. Thrive in almost any type of soil. We ship 2-3 ft. trees.



Your Choice of Spreading or Upright

Favorite of professional landscapers because they thrive even where other evergreens do poorly. What's more, they maintain their good rich color all year round. Usually expensive, yours on this final offer for spring planting for only 99¢ each. Your choice of Upright (Taxus cuspidata capitata), or Spreading (Taxus cuspidata). These are hardy, healthy well-rooted plants, ready for first transplanting. Fill out coupon and mail today!

An Ocean of Living Color! CUSHION MUMS 10 for only $2.98

20 for $5.75

Hardy Michigan nursery grown root division perennials come in an assortment of reds, yellows, pinks, purples, bronze, as available. Normally develop to bushel basket size. 1-2" blooms. Guaranteed to bloom this season.

*Varieties personally selected by our experts as being suitable for most parts of the U.S. in severely cold climates, check for hardiness. Blooms illustrated are reasonably accurate as to shape of varieties named although they may vary because nature often turns out tints and shapes found nowhere else. Evergreens—in extremely hot southern climates check for growth ability. Check coupon, mail order today!

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All-in-One Assortment Provides Complete Landscape At Low Cost!

HERE'S WHAT YOU GET*

1—TULIP TREE (Liriodendron). Tall, shady. Blooms with tulip-like flowers each about 2½" across
1—ROSE OF SHARON (Hibiscus Syriacus). Beautiful 5-15 ft. shrub. Large single blooms. Beautiful color
1—SWEET MOCK ORANGE (Philadelphus Coronarius). Ht. to 10 feet, clusters of flowers closely resemble creamy white orange blossoms in color and fragrance
1—RED OSIER DOGWOOD (Cornus Stolonifera). White spring flowers. Dark red spreading branches are a winter show
1—DEUTZIA (Deutzia Varieties). 5-8 ft. shrubs. Flowers are white or pinkish in attractive clusters
1—BUSH HONEYSUCKLE (Lonerica tatarica varieties). Vigorous 8-10 ft. shrub. White to pink flowers in spring
1—CORALBERRY (Symphoricarpos Orbiculatus). 5-7 ft. shrub. Very attractive in fall with crimson foliage and reddish-purple berries
1—WEIGELIA (Weigelia Florida Varieties). Lovely 8-10 ft. shrub covers itself with masses of rose pink flowers
1—WHITE SPIREA (Spirea Varieties). Early spring blooming Varieties
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1—PINK SPIREA (Pink Flowering Varieties). 4-6 ft. shrub used as a contrast plant with white spirea. Pink flowers in clusters
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1—GOLDEN WEEPING WILLOW (Salix Alba Vitellina). Spectacularly beautiful in winter as in summer. Slender yellow branches curve gracefully almost to the ground
*1—HYDRANGEA P. G. (Hydrangea Paniculata Grandiflora). Comes to you in shrub form for growing into a tree by following simple directions. Giant white flower clusters turn lovely pink and purple. Bonus for ordering by May 15.

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Please send order as marked below. All items are covered by your NO FAULT GUARANTEE.

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HOW MANY	CAT. NO.	ITEM	COST
	337	Giant 15-Piece Assortment plus FREE Tree Hydrangea and 4 planting guides, $4.98	
	803	Japanese Yew — Spreading, 99¢	
	804	Japanese Yew — Upright, 93¢	
	300	Privet Hedge Plants (20 for $4.98)	
	146	Hybrid Poplars (3 for $5.95 · 6 for $11.95)	
	200	Cushion Mums (10 for $2.98 - 20 for $5.75)	

☐ Remittance enclosed. Add $1.90 and we ship postage paid. TOTAL $

☐ Bill on my credit card, plus $1.90 postage and handling. Ship postpaid. (Check one). $1.90

☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Amer. Express GRAND TOTAL $

Credit Card # _____ Exp. Date _____